



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center
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Office of the Director

September 5, 1979

RP:0013

Peter D. Stearns, Colonel
Corps of Engineers, Honolulu
District Engineer
Department of the Army
Building 230
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858

Dear Colonel Stearns:

Public Notice PODCO-0
MCAS Kaneohe Bay, Oahu

The Environmental Center has reviewed the above cited Public Notice establishing a danger zone in the navigable waters of Makapu Peninsula with the assistance of Albert Banner, Zoology; Clifford Smith, Botany; Sheila Conant, General Science; Doak C. Cox and Barbara Vogt, Environmental Center.

In general, our reviewers have few comments to make regarding the proposed enlargement of the danger zone. We would like to comment, however, on the probable impacts from the use of line ordinance on the peninsula, especially if the frequency and/or size of ammunition should increase considerably.

As the KMCAS personnel are well aware, the tip of Makapu Peninsula and the offshore island, Moku Manu, are prime nesting sites for a wide diversity of seabirds. Increased restriction could appreciably cut down public access to those sites and severely limit observation for educational purposes. Increasing the amount of land under detonation could restrict available land for nesting colonies and thus limit their populations.

If the expansion of the danger zone means more ammunition will be fired over the waters near the peninsula, the resulting impacts on the marine fauna need further assessment. Observations of humpback whales and green sea turtles have been made in those waters. Additional protection for boaters entering the prohibited zone may also become necessary.

Colone Peter D. Stearns

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September 5, 1979

We appreciate KMCAS' excellent conservation record and trust our concerns will be considered in the final project.

Sincerely,



Doak C. Cox
Director

DCC/dh

cc: Albert Banner
Clifford Smith
Sheila Conant
Doak C. Cox
Barbara Vogt